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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting Between Deputy Secretary of Defense Carlucci
and Portuguese Minister of Defense Coutinho (U)Time and Place: 9 June 1981 1400-1440 Deputy Secretary of
Defense OfficeParticipants:US

Deputy Secretary of Defense,
Frank C. Carlucci
LtGen Graves, Dir, DSAA
MGen Bowman, Dir, EUR & NATO
Affairs
Capt Hilty, Country Director
for Portugal

Portugal

Minister of Defense Coutinho
Ambassador Futscher Pereira
VAdm D'Eca, HQ, Armed Forces
General Staff

(C) Minister Coutinho opened the meeting by commenting that Portugal will stand as a democracy. Deputy Secretary of Defense Carlucci said he agreed and said that he believed the Portuguese people had saved the country during the revolution and that the church had played a major role in stabilizing the country.

(C) Coutinho asked US views on the time table for Spanish entry into NATO. Carlucci replied that we did not want to force the pace and that we are not inclined to push the issue. He said he believed Spain could come into NATO without prejudicing Portugal's interests. MGen Bowman said that during the debrief of the DPC in Madrid last month he got the impression that many Spanish want to enter NATO at an early date--perhaps as early as this fall--in order to stabilize their country. Coutinho said he was concerned that Portugal might not be viewed as important an ally after Spain's entry into NATO. Bowman suggested, on the contrary, that the Portuguese might get more attention.

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(C) Carlucci inquired about the Iberlant command. Coutinho said they were prepared to assume the command in the summer of 1982. VAdm D'Eca expressed his concern about what Spanish entry into NATO would do to the Portuguese command structure. He suggested that the US and Spain discuss this problem before it becomes a NATO issue. Carlucci agreed and VAdm D'Eca and MGen Bowman were designated as the principals for these discussions.

(C) Coutinho invited Deputy Secretary of Defense Carlucci to visit Portugal as his guest. Carlucci accepted and said he would look to see when the best time would be.

(C) Coutinho reaffirmed the national requirement for the armed forces and expressed his strong desire to modernize. Carlucci said that modernization of the Portuguese armed forces was not a political issue for us but rather a matter of how fast we move with the resources available. He said the US would try to make available additional aid, but Portugal would have to establish the priorities for assistance. He added that the US would look for opportunities to use Portuguese workmanship and that he would ask the Navy to look at what work could be done at Lisnave.

(C) Carlucci informed Coutinho that as a result of the Minister's meeting with Secretary Weinberger the previous day, he had met with the German Naval Attache and asked him to pass the message to Bonn that we were concerned about the apparent change in German attitude toward support for the frigate program.

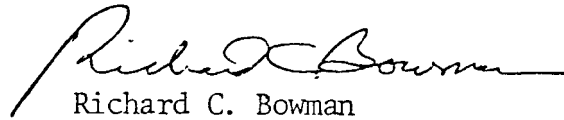
(C) VAdm D'Eca expressed concern over the lack of ground support equipment and spare parts for the first A-7P squadron and asked that we look into finding a way to provide by lease or sale the appropriate equipment. Without this equipment the Portuguese would not be able to support the aircraft when they were delivered.

(C) D'Eca said that part of the Portuguese modernization program for the Army included obtaining additional tanks. He was concerned over whether the Army should be equipped with M48A5s or M60 tanks. D'Eca said that they wanted tanks which could be logistically supported at their deployment site. LTG Graves replied that we were interested in supporting the Portuguese tanks and he would look at overall supportability in Europe before we would suggest changing Portuguese tanks. He said the cost of additional M48A5 tanks were approximately half the cost of M60s.

(C) Coutinho expressed his concern over the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear plant. Carlucci said that it was an uncalled for act; it put the US and Saudi Arabia in a terrible position.

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We were not consulted on their use of US aircraft for this attack. Coutinho said that the situation would give Portugal many problems since they obtain a large amount of their oil supply from Iraq.



Richard C. Bowman
Maj Gen, USAF
Director
EUR & NATO Affairs

cc: The Special Assistant
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